

MIT's
Oldest and Largest
Newspaper



The Weather
Today: Scattered clouds and cool,
56°F (13°C)
Tonight: Mostly clear and breezy,
45°F (7°C)
Tomorrow: Sunny, 63°F (17°C)
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Friday, October 6, 2006

Ig Nobels Given For Wacky, Odd Research

By Joanne Y. Shih

The highly entertaining Sixteenth 1st Annual Ig Nobel Prizes were awarded Thursday night in the Sanders Theatre at Harvard. The event, possibly the Rocky Horror Picture Show of ceremonies, recognized ten ingenious achievements, some more useful than others, in fields ranging from literature to medicine to mathematics.

Several Ig Nobel winners from previous years made appearances, much to the audience's delight. Loud whoops and cheers graced the entrance of 2003's Biology Prize winner, C.W. Moeliker, from the Netherlands, who was the first person to document homosexual necrophilia in the mallard duck.

This year's winners were just as interesting — and some just as questionable. Ivan R. Schwab, the first winner of the night, received the prize for ornithology for explaining why woodpeckers never have headaches.

The winners of the acoustics prize, D. Lynn Halpern, Randolph Blake, and James Hillenbrand, were applauded for their experiments on why humans cannot stand the sound of fingernails scraping on a chalkboard. Apparently, the sounds are cringe-inducing not because of their high frequency but because



JERZY SZABLOWSKI—THE TECH

Bart Knols, this year's winner of the Ig Nobel Prize for Biology, holds a platter of cheese as he presents a sixty-second description of his discovery. His research showed that a certain malaria-carrying mosquito is equally attracted to the smells of limburger cheese and human feet.

they resemble primitive animal warning noises. Following the acceptance speech for this prize was a rather painful demonstration of their experiment.

Francis M. Fesmire, from the

University of Tennessee College of Medicine, won the prize in medicine for his discovery of a most unusual way to stop hiccups, reported in his "Termination of Intractable Hiccups with Digital Rectal Massage."

Fesmire himself, who declared that he was "honored to be the first person ever to terminate" hiccups this way, distributed free samples of la-

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\$100 Laptop Price Increases

By Hannah Hsieh
STAFF REPORTER

In an ironic twist, the anticipated price of the 2007 model of the "\$100 laptop" will be \$138. Announced last month by Nicholas Negroponte, the chairman of the One Laptop Per Child association, the projected price will drop to \$100 by the end of 2008 and \$50 in 2010.

The announcement came at the second annual AMD Global Vision Conference in Pasadena, Calif.

The non-profit, Delaware-based OLPC association was the brainchild of several professors at MIT, including Negroponte. OLPC's goal is to engineer and produce a low-cost laptop — the \$100 laptop — that will be available for use in developing countries "to provide children around the world with new opportunities to explore, experiment, and express themselves," the OLPC Web site states.

"The project has its roots in everything that [Nicholas Negroponte, Seymour Papert, and I, among others] have been working on for more than 30 years at MIT," said Walter Bender, president of OLPC software and content. The initiative was first announced to the public in Jan. 2005 by Negroponte at the World Economic Forum in Switzerland.

OLPC plans to perform field testing with all of its launch countries this fall, Bender said. There has been no official release confirming the launch

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BU Freshman Dies After Memorial Drive Accident

Boston University freshman Beatriz Ponce died early Wednesday morning after being hit by a car at the intersection of Amesbury St. and Memorial Drive, according to *The Daily Free Press*, a BU student newspaper. Amesbury St. marks the border between the western edge of MIT's campus and the Hyatt Regency hotel.

Ponce, 17, was struck Tuesday night by a silver Ford Focus driven by Maurizio Aragona, 31, of Belmont, Mass. Aragona, who tried to help Ponce after the accident, had a green light. Ponce did not use a crosswalk, *The Daily Free Press* reported. Ponce was pronounced dead at 3:48 a.m. at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Aragona has not been charged and an investigation is ongoing.

Ponce played a soccer game with BU sophomore Hugo Juarez and BU freshman Chiara Cortez Tuesday night and was left at George Sherman Union on Commonwealth Ave. to catch a midnight shuttle to the Hyatt, *The Daily Free Press* reported. Some BU students live in overflow housing at the Hyatt. Cortez told the BU newspaper, "The bus either didn't make it on time, or she got tired of waiting."

BU Dean of Students Kenneth Elmore e-mailed students yesterday afternoon, writing, "Sadly, this accident reminds us all of the dangers ever present in our daily lives."

"Our heart goes out to her family and friends and to all those who knew her and loved her," BU spokesman Colin Riley said to *The Daily Free Press*.

—Marie Y. Thibault

Arthur L. Jones

MIT NEWS OFFICE

Arthur L. Jones, a former deputy White House press secretary who served as director of the MIT News Office, died on Oct. 2 at Brigham and Women's Hospital following complications from treatment he was receiving for leukemia. He was 61 and had lived in Newton.

Kathryn A. Willmore, who recently retired as a vice president at MIT, said of working with Jones, "When Arthur Jones called, it wasn't just MIT calling, it was Arthur. And people knew they could count on him to tell the truth."

A native of Baltimore, Jones was an award-winning journalist in both television and print media. He worked at the Boston Globe, sharing a team Pulitzer Prize in 1975 for meritorious public service, and he received a New England Television Emmy Award in 1980 while he was news manager at WBZ-TV in Boston.

Jones served as director of communications for the city of Boston in the administration of Mayor Raymond L. Flynn and before that, as assistant press secretary to Gov. Michael S. Dukakis.

Jones moved to Washington, D.C., in 1993 to serve in former Presi-

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In Short

¶ **No parking is permitted on Memorial Drive** from Sunday at 11 p.m. to Monday evening in preparation for the Tufts 10K for Women. Massachusetts State Police will tow vehicles parked on both sides of the street.

¶ **BSO College Cards** are available for students to pick up at the Bos-

ton Symphony Orchestra Box Office located at 301 Mass. Ave. The Council for the Arts at MIT offers undergraduates up to 20 BSO performances during the season for no charge with the card. MIT student IDs required.

Send news information and tips to news@the-tech.mit.edu.



SAMUEL E. KRONICK—THE TECH

Hanzel D. Corella '09 makes a suggestion in the "Greg H. Belote 'They Don't Care' Customer Suggestion Box" at LaVerde's Market. Despite the witty label, the suggestion box was not a hack. LaVerde's new owner, the 660 Corporation, installed it on Wednesday morning in response to recent criticisms over the new management.

The Tech will not publish on Tuesday, Oct. 10. Normal publication will resume next Friday, Oct. 13.

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Harvard considers adding religion and US courses to core curriculum
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WORLD & NATION

Oil Market Unnerved By Signs of OPEC Cuts

By **Jad Mouawad**
THE NEW YORK TIMES

The oil market was unnerved Thursday by speculation that OPEC was considering cutting its production to stem a recent decline in oil prices. After jumping as much as 2.5 percent early on, oil prices eased a bit by the afternoon.

A decision to cut production is still being discussed by oil ministers from the 11 members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, which are considering whether to hold an emergency meeting in coming weeks, an OPEC delegate said.

Some news organizations, including The Financial Times and Reuters, citing unidentified OPEC delegates, said the organization planned to cut production by 1 million barrels a day, a reduction of nearly 4 percent from its current level of 27.6 million barrels. The cut would primarily come from Saudi Arabia, although most other OPEC members would also pare their output.

But there were conflicting reports from various representatives of OPEC's member nations who said no agreement had been reached.

Turkish Law to Stifle Criticism Leads to National Debate

By **Ian Fisher**
THE NEW YORK TIMES ISTANBUL, TURKEY

Not a week after a court dropped the case against a best-selling Turkish novelist, another well-known writer was charged with the same crime, one of the most ambiguous and contentious here, that of "insulting Turkishness."

The newly accused Hrant Dink, editor of an Armenian-language newspaper, Agos, takes the charges, those against him and scores of other writers and publishers, as positive news.

"It is something good for Turkey," said Dink, though he faces the prospect of three years in jail. "It is good for the dynamism. There is a strong movement from inside, and I can say for the first time we are seeing a real democratic movement."

This has not been the usual interpretation since the law was passed last year, at a time when riot policemen guarded trials and the European Union issued dire warnings that the law, called Article 301, stood as a major obstacle to Turkey's long ambitions for membership.

But some of the accused say that the turmoil is forcing a national debate about what it truly means to be a democracy.

World Study Finds Abuse of Women is Widespread

By **Elizabeth Rosenthal**
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Violence against women by their live-in spouses or partners is a widespread phenomenon, both in the developed and developing world, as well as in rural and urban areas, the most comprehensive and scientific international study on the topic has confirmed.

In interviews with nearly 25,000 women at 15 sites in 10 countries, researchers from the World Health Organization found that rates of partner violence ranged from a low of 15 percent in Yokohama, Japan, to a high of 71 percent in rural Ethiopia.

At six of the sites, at least 50 percent of women said that they had been subject to moderate or severe violence in the home at some point. At 13 of the sites, more than a quarter of all women said they had suffered such violence in the past year.

"Violence by an intimate partner is a common experience worldwide," the authors wrote of the findings, which are being published Friday in The Lancet, the British medical journal. "In all but one setting, women were at far greater risk of physical or sexual violence by a partner than from violence by other people."

Amish Deceased Laid to Rest After Lurid Monday Massacre

By **Ian Urbina**
THE NEW YORK TIMES NICKEL MINES, PA.

As is customary in Amish tradition, guests brought food, not flowers. A hymn was read in 16th-century German, but there was no singing. The dead were laid in simple pine coffins and dressed in homemade white dresses, symbolizing purity. Two sermons were given, both in Pennsylvania Dutch.

Four days after a grisly attack on an Amish schoolhouse here, funerals were held Thursday for four of the five girls killed by a gunman who wrote of being forever changed by the death of his newborn daughter and driven over the edge by fantasies of sexually assaulting young girls.

The first of Thursday's services began at 9 a.m. in the woodworking shop of the father of the deceased, Naomi Rose Ebersol, 7.

"We are here facing the unexpected," said one of the two Amish pastors who spoke and whose remarks were relayed by a Mennonite minister who attended, David Nissley. "We know and believe that these girls are in heaven with the

Lord Jesus Christ." The man said the pastor read from the Book of Matthew, about the importance of innocence.

"Unless you become like these little children, you cannot enter the kingdom of heaven," the pastor said, emphasizing the need for the faithful left behind to regain the purity and innocence threatened by the killings.

After the 90-minute service, about 300 men with long beards and women in white bonnets climbed into their black and grey buggies and clip-clopped in quiet procession to Bart Amish Cemetery. Along the way they passed the home of Charles Carl Roberts IV, the 32-year-old killer, who was a milk truck driver.

A few hours later, a similar ceremony was held in the barn of the family of the oldest victim, Marian Fisher, 13, who told Roberts during the attack on Monday to kill her and spare her classmates. And in late afternoon, the service for Mary Liz Miller, 8; and her sister Lena Miller, 7, got under way.

Another victim, Anna Mae Stoltzfus, 12, is to be buried Fri-

day.

Roberts shot a total of 10 young girls. One was taken off life support Tuesday and brought home to die, officials said. Two others remain in critical condition and two in serious condition.

At times the tragic irony of the week's events was overpowering. On Wednesday, a stone-faced deputy county coroner, Amanda Shelley, described for reporters the blood on the walls of the one-room schoolhouse where the rampage occurred. But her composure dissolved when she mentioned a sign hanging beneath the chalkboard. It read: "Visitors Brighten People's Days."

Since Tuesday, Amish mourners had attended viewings of the victims at the families' homes.

Rita Rhoads, a midwife who had delivered two of the girls who were killed, said that during the gatherings, in which caskets were open, young mourners were encouraged to touch the body.

"It is part of the realization that the person is no longer in the body," said Rhoads, a Mennonite who has attended many Amish funerals. "It's part of the reality of life."

Former HP Chair, Four Others Charged in Leak Investigation

By **Damon Darlin**
THE NEW YORK TIMES SAN FRANCISCO

Hewlett-Packard's former chairwoman was among five people charged Wednesday with illegally gathering phone records of board members, journalists and others in an effort to find the source of news leaks.

The felony charges, filed by the California attorney general's office, are the first stemming from a spying operation that ended last spring but came to light a month ago in disclosures by a disgruntled former director.

The case has rocked the company, forcing out HP chairwoman, Patricia C. Dunn, along with the company's general counsel, a second director and two other senior officials. A House subcommittee conducted hearings on the case last week, and

federal prosecutors have also been considering charges.

It was Dunn who authorized the operation, aimed at tracing leaks from the board, and put it into the hands of outside investigators. Those charged with her on Wednesday included the in-house lawyer who supervised one phase of the operation and three of the detectives.

The charges stem from the use of pretexting, a form of deception, to obtain private calling records from phone company employees.

"We plan to aggressively prosecute this case," William Lockyer, the California attorney general, said at a news conference in Sacramento. "However, the investigation into this matter remains active and still incomplete."

HP's former general counsel, Ann O. Baskins, who resigned hours before the House hearing last

week, was not among those charged Wednesday. Nor was Mark V. Hurd, the chief executive, who has overseen a period of resurgence that has buoyed the company's stock even in the face of the recent upheaval.

"There currently is no evidence that Mark Hurd engaged in wrongdoing," Lockyer said Wednesday.

Concerns over leaks from the board predated the ouster of Carly Fiorina as chairwoman and chief executive in early 2005. In a memoir to be published next week, Fiorina says that she ordered an initial leak investigation shortly before her departure.

The charges against Dunn, who is expected to appear in court within 24 hours, come as she battles advanced ovarian cancer. "I truly hope Ms. Dunn wins her fight against this disease," Lockyer said. "However, her illness has no impact on her culpability."

WEATHER

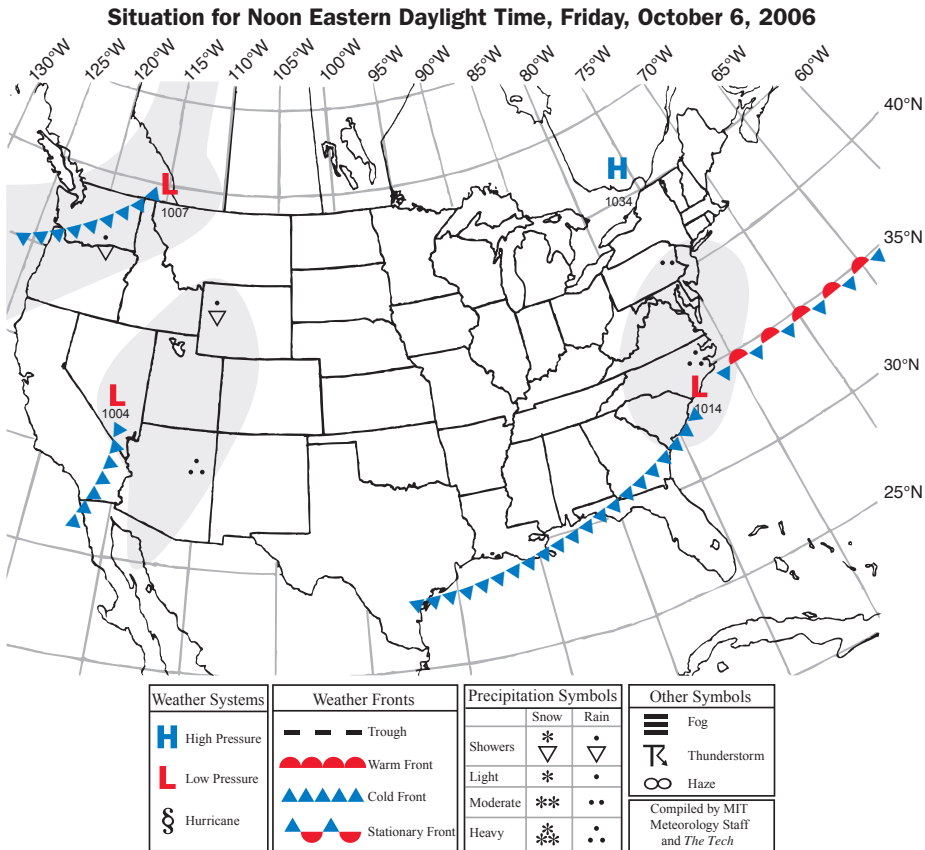
Under Pressure

By **Brian H. Tang**
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Pressure is something we're all accustomed to at MIT, but hopefully the high pressure overhead in our vicinity will enable you to enjoy some time outside this long weekend to lower your blood pressure. A strong front moved through early Thursday morning, transitioning us almost instantly from a warm, sticky air mass to a more typical autumn-like air mass. Our new weather station on top of the Green Building captured the cold front passage nicely. The temperature dropped 8°F (4.5°C) in about 30 minutes between 2 a.m. and 3 a.m. early Thursday morning, and winds gusted to 42 mph (68kph) around 4 a.m. from the NW as the cold air filtered in behind the front. We also received 0.06 inches (1.5mm) of rain. Now a strong high pressure region will bring tranquil and cool weather to the region for the next few days. It will keep a storm forming to our south over the Carolinas from becoming a weekend spoiler, so if you're going up north to see the foliage or planning a late season hike, you're in luck this weekend.

Extended Forecast

Today: Scattered clouds and cool with breezy NE winds. High 56°F (13°C).
Tonight: Mostly clear and breezy. Low 45°F (7°C).
Tomorrow: Sunny. High 63°F (17°C).
Sunday: Sunny. High 70°F (21°C).
Monday: Sunny. High 73°F (23°C).



Rice in Iraq to Support Prime Minister, Urge Faster Progress

By Philip Shenon
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD

Wearing a helmet and a flak jacket and flanked by machine-gun-toting bodyguards to defend against insurgents, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice came here Thursday, insisting that there were new signs of progress in Iraq and that the Bush administration had never sugarcoated its news about the American occupation.

"It is a quite critical time for the Iraqi government," Rice said of the reasons for her brief, unannounced visit to the Iraqi capital.

"What the American people see on their television screens is the struggle," she said. "It is harder to show the political process that is going on at local levels, at provincial levels and indeed at the national level." Iraqis, she said, are "making progress."

Rice said she was in Iraq to offer support to Prime Minister Nouri Kamal al-Maliki and to urge him to move faster to settle political differences that are seen as having prevented actions to curb the insurgents' violence.

"The security situation is not

one that can be tolerated and is not one that is helped by political inaction," said Rice, who met twice with al-Maliki on Thursday and praised him for his "excellent leadership of Iraq."

Yet signs of progress were not much in evidence in the first hours of her visit.

It began inauspiciously when the military transport plane that brought her to Baghdad was forced to circle the city for about 40 minutes because of what a State Department spokesman later said was either mortar fire or rockets at the airport.

On Thursday evening, during her meeting with President Jalal Talabani, the lights went out, forcing Rice to continue the discussion in the dark. It was a reminder of the city's erratic — and sometimes nonexistent — electrical service.

She arrived in the midst of an especially bloody few days for American troops. At least 21 American soldiers have been killed in Iraq since Saturday, most in Baghdad. Two car bombings in the city on Thursday left at least four Iraqi civilians dead.

The extraordinary security pre-

cautions for Rice's trip here — her first to Iraq in six months, her fifth as secretary of state — were evidence of continuing turmoil in Iraq three years after the American ouster of Saddam Hussein.

Traveling from Israel on Thursday morning, Rice had to abandon her comfortable official jet at an American air base in Turkey and to board a C-17A cargo plane equipped with anti-missile technology for the final, 90-minute leg into Baghdad; that procedure has become routine for all high-ranking Bush administration officials visiting Iraq.

From the airport in Baghdad, Rice flew by military helicopter to the heavily fortified American-controlled Green Zone, bypassing the dangerous, explosives-strewn airport highway into the city.

Reporters traveling with her were told of the Baghdad trip only hours before departure and were instructed not to share details with anyone, including their editors and families, until she had arrived safely. They were barred from reporting how long she would stay in Iraq until after she had left the country.

Live Cluster Bombs Lethal Leftover In Lebanon Following Israeli War

By Michael Slackman
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BEIRUT, LEBANON

Since the war between Israel and Hezbollah ended in August, nearly three people have been wounded or killed each day by cluster bombs Israel dropped in the waning days of the war, and officials now say it will take more than a year to clear the region of them.

U.N. officials estimate that southern Lebanon is littered with 1 million unexploded bomblets, far outnumbering the 650,000 people living in the region. They are stuck in the branches of olive trees and the broad leaves of banana trees. They are on rooftops, mixed in with rubble and littered across fields, farms, driveways, roads and outside schools.

As of Sept. 28, officials here said, cluster bombs had severely wounded 109 people — and killed 18 others.

Muhammad Hassan Sultan, a slender brown-haired 12-year-old, became a postwar casualty when the shrapnel from a cluster bomb cut into his head and neck. He was from Sawane, a hillside village with a panoramic view of terraced olive farms

and rolling hills. Muhammad was sitting on a hip-high wall, watching a bulldozer clear rubble, when the machine bumped into a tree.

A flash of a second later he was fatally injured when a cluster bomblet dropped from the branches. "I took Muhammad to the hospital in my car, but he was already dead," said Yousef Ftouni, a resident of the village.

The entire village was littered with the bomblets, and as Ftouni recounted Muhammad's death, Lebanese army soldiers worked their way through an olive grove, blowing up unexploded munitions in a painfully slow process of clearance.

Cluster bombs are legal if aimed at military targets and are very effective, military experts say. Nonetheless, Israel has been heavily criticized by U.N. officials, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch for using cluster bombs, because they are difficult to focus exclusively on military targets. Israel was also criticized because it fired most of its cluster bombs in the last days of the war, when the U.N. Security Council was negotiating a resolution to end the conflict.

Officials calculate that if they are lucky, and money from international donors does not run out, it will take 15 months to clear the area. There are now about 300 Lebanese army soldiers and 30 other clearance teams, each of up to 30 experts, working on the problem of unexploded bomblets.

The U.N. Mine Action Coordination Center in southern Lebanon recorded 745 locations across the south where unexploded bombs had been found. Of the million estimated to be scattered around, so far 4,500 have been disposed of, according to the center.

"Our priority at the moment is to clean houses, main roads and gardens so that the displaced people can return to their villages," said Col. Mohammad Fahmy, head of the national mine clearing office. "The next stage will be cleaning agricultural lands."

In Lebanon there are two explanations of why Israel unleashed cluster bombs at the end of the war: to inflict as much damage as possible on Hezbollah before withdrawing, or to litter the south with unexploded cluster bombs as a strategy to keep people from returning right away.

Evangelical Christian Leaders Fear Teen Believers Abandoning the Faith

By Laurie Goodstein
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Despite their packed megachurches, their political clout and increasing visibility on the national stage, evangelical Christian leaders are warning one another that their teenagers are abandoning the faith in droves.

At an unusual series of leadership meetings in 44 cities this fall, more than 6,000 pastors are hearing dire forecasts from some of the biggest names in the conservative evangelical movement.

Their alarm has been stoked by a highly suspect claim that if current trends continue, only 4 percent of teenagers will be "Bible-believing Christians" as adults — a sharp decline compared with 35 percent of the current generation of baby boomers, and before that, 65 percent of the World War II generation.

While some critics say that the statistics are grossly exaggerated (one evangelical magazine for youth ministers dubbed it "the 4 percent panic attack"), there is widespread consensus among evangelical leaders that they risk losing their teenagers.

"I'm looking at the data," said Ron Luce, who organized the summit meetings and founded Teen Mania, a 20-year-old youth ministry, "and we've become post-Christian America, like post-Christian Europe. We've been working as hard as we know how to work — everyone in youth ministry is working hard — but we're losing."

The board of the National Association of Evangelicals, an umbrella group representing 60 denominations and dozens of ministries, passed a resolution this year deploring "the epidemic of young people leaving the evangelical church." Among the leaders speaking at the meetings are Ted Haggard, president of the National Association; the Rev. Jerry Falwell; and nationally known preachers like Jack Hayford and Tommy Barnett.

Genuine alarm can be heard from Christian teenagers and youth pastors alike, who say they cannot compete against a pervasive culture of cynicism about religion, and the casual "hooking up" approach to sex so pervasive on MTV, Web sites for teenagers and in hip-hop, rap and rock music. Divorced parents and dysfunctional

families also lead teenagers to avoid church entirely or to drift away.

Over and over in interviews, evangelical teenagers said they felt like a tiny, beleaguered minority in their schools and neighborhoods. They said they often felt alone in their struggles to live by their "Biblical values" by avoiding casual sex, risque music and videos, Internet pornography, alcohol and drugs.

When Eric Soto, 18, transferred from a small charter school to a large public high school in Chicago, he was disappointed to find that an extracurricular Bible study attracted only five to eight students. "When we brought food, we thought we could get a better turnout," he said. They got 12.

Chelsea Dunford, a 17-year old from Canton, Conn., said, "At school I don't have a lot of friends who are Christians."

She spoke late last month as she and her small church youth group were about to join more than 3,400 teenagers in a sports arena at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst for a Christian youth extravaganza and rock concert called Acquire the Fire.

Thai Court Agrees to Hear Challenge to Sale of Company

By Wayne Arnold

THE NEW YORK TIMES

SINGAPORE

The legal backlash over the sale of Thailand's top telecommunications conglomerate to Singapore gathered steam Thursday when a top Thai court agreed to hear a lawsuit aiming to revoke the company's essential licenses.

The Supreme Administrative Court of Thailand agreed to hear a case filed by a Thai law professor accusing the country's regulators of failing to prevent the unlawful sale of national telecommunications services to a foreign investor. The suit demands that the licenses to operate those services be withdrawn.

A group of investors led by the Singapore government's investment arm, Temasek Holdings, bought a controlling stake in the company, the Shin Corp., for \$1.9 billion in January. The acquisition gave Temasek control over the country's leading cellular operator, as well as a satellite company and a television broadcaster.

The sellers were the family of the prime minister, Thaksin Shinawatra. The deal provoked a wave of protests that culminated in last month's coup and the ouster of Thaksin.

While analysts said the lawsuit over the deal appeared weak, they said it was still noteworthy that the court had agreed to hear a case filed by a single individual. "This is perhaps the first of its kind," said Panat Tasneeyanond, a former Thai senator who helped draft the constitution and was one of the first to propose the creation of the administrative courts.

Chinese Researcher Will Get Day in Court, But Little in Defense

By Jim Yardley

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BEIJING

A Chinese researcher for The New York Times may appear in court as early as next week to appeal his conviction on a fraud charge, but his legal team is worried that it will be unable to call witnesses, submit evidence or provide him with adequate representation.

Guan Anping, a lawyer handling the appeal, said two Beijing court officials visited the jailed researcher, Zhao Yan, last week and told him that his case would be heard soon after the National Day holiday celebration, which honors the founding of the People's Republic of China and concludes this weekend. Guan said he and another lawyer representing Zhao had not yet been notified and were hurriedly trying to prepare.

Under Chinese law, the High Court of Beijing must inform defense lawyers at least three days in advance of the appeal hearing. Guan said he had asked the court several times in recent weeks about the status of the case. Last Friday, court officials told him they had agreed to hear the appeal but had not yet set a date.

Officials with the appeals court could not be reached for comment. Guan said if the court did schedule the appeal for next week, he was concerned that arranging for witnesses and preparing the case so soon after the national holiday would present a logistical challenge. He also said the court had not yet clarified whether Zhao's legal team would be allowed to present a robust case by calling witnesses and presenting evidence to rebut the prosecution's case.

Shuttle Has Close Encounter With a Cosmic BB

By John Schwartz

THE NEW YORK TIMES

The shuttle Atlantis came back from space last month with a tiny but significant hole in it, apparently from a collision with a piece of space debris, NASA officials said Thursday.

The micrometeoroid did not damage the delicate thermal panels and tiles that protect the shuttle on its return to earth; instead, it struck a radiator panel that extends from the payload bay doors. The doors hang open during missions to get rid of the excess heat produced by the shuttle's systems.

By historical standards, it was a major hit, said James Hartsfield, a NASA spokesman, who called it "the second-most damaging particle that we've encountered in the program."

He added, however, that the damage was relatively slight. "It posed no danger to the crew and no change to the mission," he said.

The hole is about one-tenth of an inch in diameter at the entry point, with damage extending about an inch around and a half-inch deep within the radiator itself, where the particle shattered. On the other side of the radiator, it left an exit hole three-hundredths of an inch in diameter and a crack two-tenths of an inch long.

Ethics Panel Vows Hard Look At House Page Scandal

By Carl Hulse

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Leaders of the House ethics committee on Thursday promised an aggressive investigation into the circumstances surrounding former Rep. Mark Foley's electronic subpoenas to congressional pages and approved nearly four dozen subpoenas for an inquiry they said would take "weeks, not months."

"The American people, and especially the parents of all current and former pages, are entitled to know how this situation was handled, and we are determined to answer their questions," said Rep. Doc Hastings, R-Wash., who is chairman of the panel.

He said that the committee, which is evenly divided between Republicans and Democrats, would question lawmakers, House officers and staff and "go wherever the evidence leads us."

The committee, which had been paralyzed by partisan conflict until recently, no longer has jurisdiction over Foley, who resigned from Congress last Friday.

The panel can, however, investigate whether lawmakers failed to take adequate steps to protect pages and whether they and staff members properly pursued the initial report of Foley's e-mail messages to a Louisiana page whose parents were alarmed by their content.

"First of all, we have to establish the facts," said Rep. Judy Biggert, R-Ill., who will conduct the inquiry with Hastings and two Democrats, Reps. Howard L. Berman of California and Stephanie Tubbs Jones of Ohio. "And the facts will lead us to who — if there is someone — who perhaps did a cover-up."

OPINION



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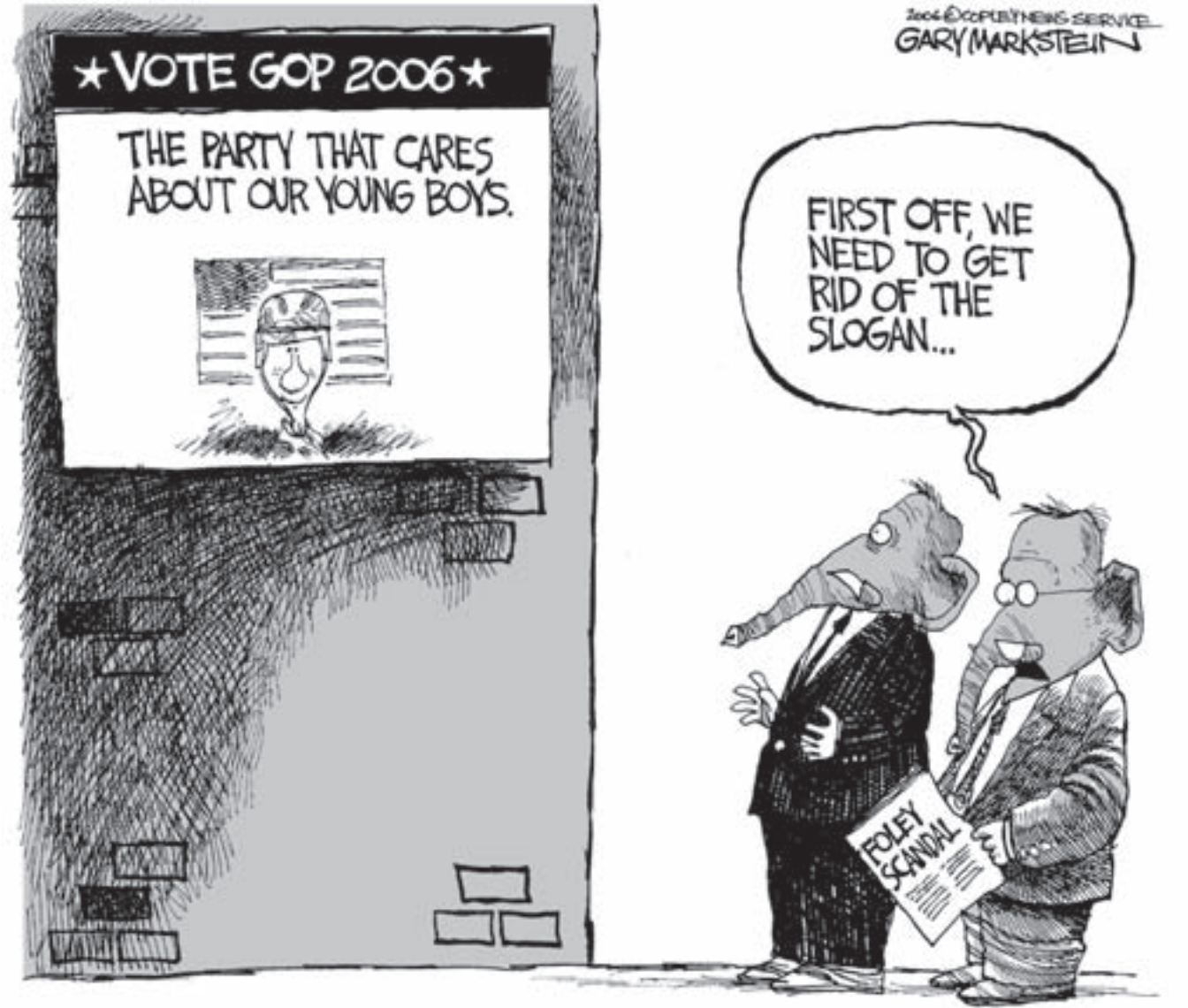
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Corrections

The table entitled “UA Election Results Fall 2006” mistakenly gave the title of “Random House Senator” to the senator from Random Hall.



Opinion Policy

Editorials are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of Chairman Zachary Ozer, Editor in Chief Marie Y. Thibault, Managing Editor Michael McGraw-Herdeg, Executive Editor Rosa Cao, and Opinion Editor Aditya Kohli. **Dissents** are the opinions of signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial. **Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons** are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submissions should be addressed to *The Tech*, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication. Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. *The Tech* reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter let-

ters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of *The Tech*, and will not be returned. *The Tech* makes no commitment to publish all the letters received. **Guest columns** are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community and have the author's name in italics. Columns without italics are written by *Tech* staff.

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October 6,
2006

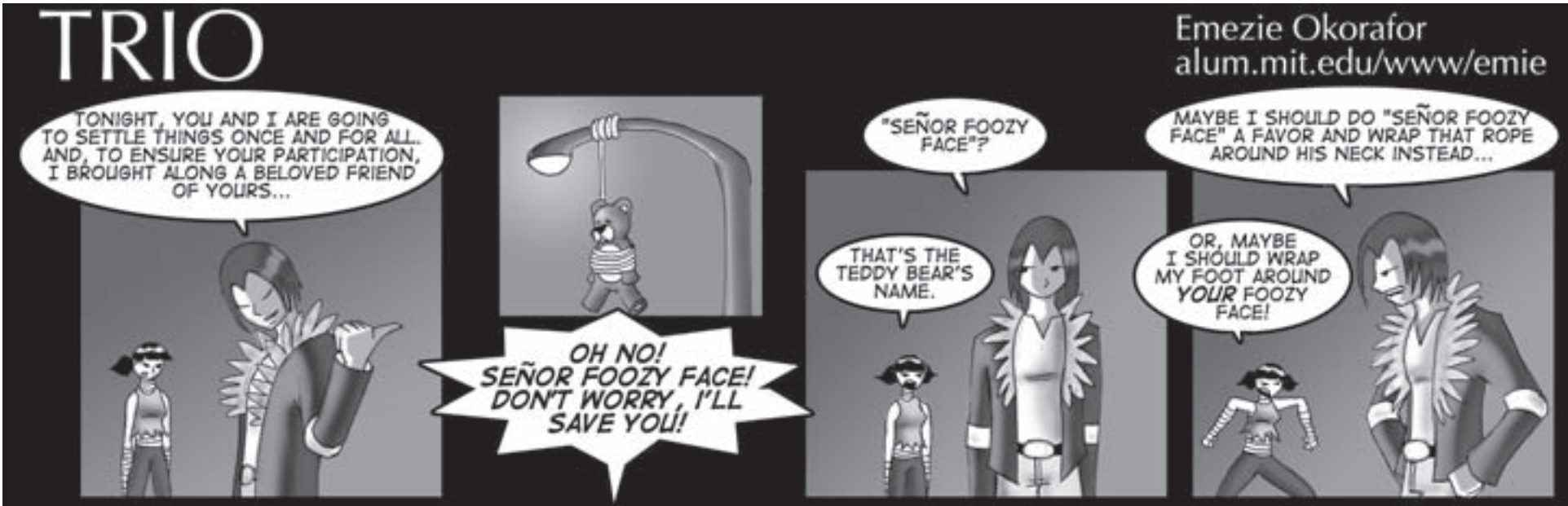
COMICS

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Tech

FUN

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PAGES



THE ADVENTURES OF MAN

Scott Burdick
sburdick@mit.edu



More Cowbell

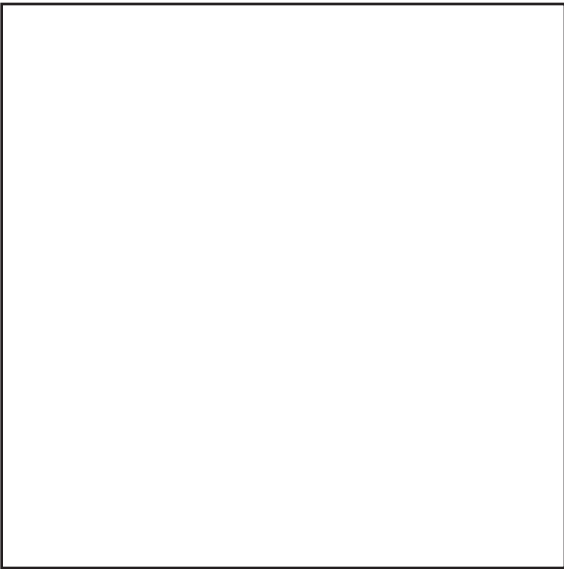
by Jia Lou



Your TA'S CALENDAR

Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 9





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```
% phd.m
%
% author: Cecilia
% date: 09/08/05

load THESIS_TOPIC

while (funding==true)
    data = run_experiment(THESIS_TOPIC);
    GOOD_ENOUGH = query(advisor);
    if (data > GOOD_ENOUGH)
        graduate();
        break
    else
        THESIS_TOPIC = new();
        years_in_gradschool += 1;
    end
end
```



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FoxTrot

by Bill Amend

Dilbert® by Scott Adams

su | do | ku

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A large, empty 10x10 grid of squares, intended for drawing a picture. The grid is composed of 10 columns and 10 rows of squares, with thin black lines separating them.

ARTS

MUSEUM EVENT

College Night at the MFA

Joanna Newsom, Indian Art, Tasty Desserts, and More Highlight a Free Event

By Sarah Dupuis

MFA College Night
Museum of Fine Arts
Thursday, Sept. 28

Swarms of college students crowded the steps outside the Museum of Fine Arts' main entrance last Thursday night, honing in on the front door and eager for their chance to squeeze inside. At the Museum's second annual College Night, "free" was the adjective of the evening, and students from all over the Boston area came to collect the various giveaways offered. Last year the event lured upwards of 1,500 students from more than forty colleges and universities, and this year continued the trend. With an enticing assortment of desserts, a local DJ, the chance to check out the MFA's exhibitions, hourly raffles and an outdoor concert — all for free — the irrepressible crowd outside the building was justified.

Once inside the building, attendees showed their student IDs and entered the College Night lottery. Prizes included a Tivoli radio, a two-gigabyte iPod nano, an MFA gift bag and a collection of CDs by artists who have performed at the MFA, including Cat Power, Petra Haden, Matmos and Joanna Newsom, who performed later in the evening.

"The event is for raising awareness of the museum. We're building a new wing, which is really exciting, and we hope people will come see the new art," said Patty Dickerson, an employee of the MFA. Students poured in to the many open galleries, particularly the special exhibition *Domains of Wonder: Masterworks of Indian Painting*, on tour from the San Diego Museum of Art's South Asian collection. The event brought a number of new museum-goers who will continue to explore new exhibits over their college years.

The museum's Garden Court terrace was swankier than might have been expected for college students paying no entry fee. Light

green tablecloths adorned with scattered white candles gave the room the feel of a chic café, but the electronic down-tempo musical selections of DJ Yamin were well-suited to the College Night audience. Ironically, the biggest turnoff in an otherwise lovely room was the crowd: students literally waited ten minutes each before they could walk down the stairs to the terrace, and getting out was just as difficult.

"It's very poorly organized," said Kristen Ferraro, an RA at Merrimack College. "Trying to funnel everyone through that one little door? Not a smart idea." The impatience of the crowd was assuaged, however, when free SmartWater and a delicious collection of catered cookies rewarded the wait.

The most memorable and anticipated part of the evening occurred in Calderwood Courtyard, and featured a live performance by acclaimed singer-harpist-songwriter Joanna Newsom. Tickets to the show were free but limited, and so many students who came explicitly for the musical performance but were turned away were somewhat sore.

Opening act Chris Brokaw was the first to appear on the small outdoor stage. Brokaw, who played with Newsom in Berlin two years ago, started his set with a dry, enunciated cover of Lisa Walker's "Crooked." His set featured a handful of instrumental pieces combined with various sound effects and an electronic tambourine sound. The most interesting tune performed was the politically charged "Eyes of a Host," in which Brokaw sang, "here in the Union, we lay on our backs and shoot stars ..." before plunging into a distorted electric sound for the chorus. His set was well suited for a humid New England fall night, and the outdoor atmosphere was perfect save for the lack of visible stars in Boston.

A hush fell over the audience when Joanna Newsom entered the courtyard. Dressed in the kind of flowing blue dress she's known for, Newsom apologetically told the audience she

hadn't been speaking much today and hoped we'd put up with her still-healing voice. Perhaps the sickness leant itself to her performance, because the emerging sound was unlike the childish tones heard on Newsom's last album release. There was a new mature elegance to her voice, although the songs were unmistakably Newsom. After opening with "Bridges and Balloons," a song off 2004's "The Milk-Eyed Mender," Newsom told the audience she'd be playing a lot of new songs this evening. No objections. Her set list included the new songs "Emily," "Sawdust and Diamonds," "Cosmia," and the fifteen-minute-long "Skin." Newsom also catered to devoted fans of her old material and played "The Book of Right-On," "Sadie," and "Peach, Plum, Pear," although she forgot the lyrics to her older material on more than one occasion. She later chalked this lapse up to infrequency of performance, but did not seem embarrassed — the audience was supportive and right with her throughout the set.

The most exciting part of Joanna Newsom's music is watching it move through her. As the songs change dynamics and emotion, Newsom is brought along, alternately violently and placidly. When she becomes passionate, the harp seems to direct her with its strings and not the other way around. At other times, she seems to gather little stones or berries from the strings of the harp, gently plucking as though reaching for a Faberge egg. When she's having fun, she has all the funk of an upright bass player, and her harp solo breaks have all the soul of an old jazz standard. And then there's that voice: caterwauling and yodeling about birds and trees and flowers before

shooting up into an operatic vibrato and finally settling on a pure, low, sultry tone.

Her internal musical diversity is offset by a genial personality. Throughout the show, Newsom sipped a concoction for the health of her throat from a wine glass. "I'm drinking the craziest thing ever right now," she told the audience after completing her second song. "I can't tell if it's making me better or worse. It's not that crazy: it's, like, lemon and honey ... but a lot of lemon and a lot of honey." She paused to sip. "There's gonna be a lot more hilarious rapport like that throughout the night while I rest my voice. Stay tuned." And the audience did.

After the musical performance ended, attendees shuffled out of the courtyard and exited down the same steps on which they originally congregated. The evening's success was evident from the murmurs of huddled students — "this is why we go to college in Boston," one proclaimed. The MFA appeared to have met its goal of acclimating students to its galleries and events, and those in attendance at College Night to enjoying a unique and memorable evening.

Luckily, for those who missed out last Thursday, the MFA is always free for students with an MIT ID card, and the museum's special exhibits change regularly. A calendar of events and exhibition listings can be found on the MFA's website at <http://www.mfa.org>.

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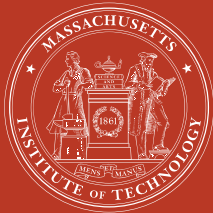
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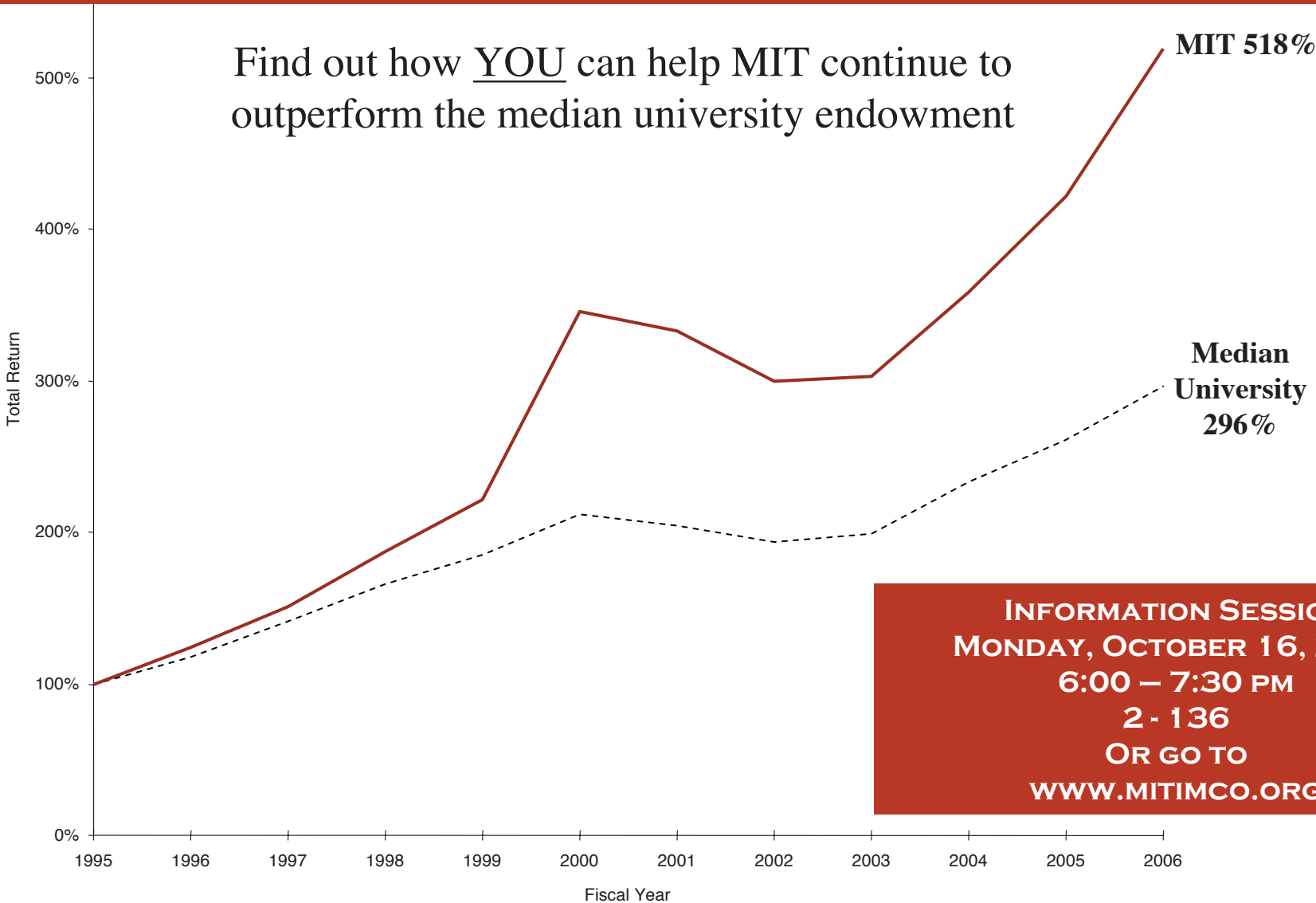
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INFORMATION SESSION
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2 - 136
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Elephants Come to Town!

Elephants, horses, and ponies paraded past the MIT campus yesterday morning en route to Boston. Handlers from the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus walked the animals from the train tracks behind Simmons Hall to the TD Banknorth Garden, where they will reside until their departure on Sunday, Oct. 15. In keeping with its annual visits to Boston, the circus will perform the 135th edition of what it touts as “The Greatest Show on Earth.”

(counterclockwise from left)
Kindergarten children sit on the grass near the Sloan School to watch the procession pass down Memorial Drive.

MIT campus police look on as elephants march past the 77 Massachusetts Ave. crosswalk.

The animal train heads toward the Longfellow Bridge to cross into Boston.

Photography by Gheorghe Chistol



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Friday, October 13

On-Campus Info Session: 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM in Room 1-150
Enjoy food, fun, and prizes; including a \$200 American Express gift card give away and much more!

Friday, October 27

On-Campus Interview Sessions: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Monstertrak resume deadline: October 16, 2006

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MIT Hillel Students Build Sukkah

Members of MIT Hillel erected a Sukkah in Kresge Oval to celebrate Sukkot, a major Jewish holiday which begins tonight. The makeshift structure is representative of the temporary homes the Jews lived in while wandering the desert for 40 years. Sukkot is also a celebration of the fall harvest season. MIT Hillel students will eat and sleep in the structure to observe the week-long holiday and also to raise money for the homeless.

(left) The Sukkah in the middle of construction.
(right) David B. Stiebel '09 and Eitan Z. Reich G support Naomi E. Stein '10 as she hangs decorations.

Photography by Samuel E. Kronick



Solution to Crossword

from page 5

Solution to Sudoku

from page 6

This space donated by The Tech

Nightline 3-8800
We're here to listen.

Innovation at Google: A Spotlight on Google Maps.

Come meet Bret Taylor and other members
of Google's Product Development team.

Speaker Bio: Bret Taylor is the Senior Product Manager for Google's developer programs. He joined Google in early 2003, where he has been responsible for over 25 product launches, including Google Maps, the Google Maps API, and Google Local. Prior to Google, Bret worked as a software engineer at Reactivity, a startup incubator in Silicon Valley. Bret holds an MS and BS in Computer Science from Stanford University.

MIT 34-101
Wednesday, October 11, 2006
Pizza 6:45 pm
Presentation 7:00 - 8:30 pm



THE DIVINE PARADOX

$$\int e^{ax} dx = \frac{e^{ax}}{a} \rightarrow E = mc^2$$

THEOLOGICAL POSTULATES HAVE EMPIRICAL SCIENTIFIC IMPLICATIONS

THE PURELY LOGICAL. ABSOLUTE PROOF THAT GOD EXISTS.
IN 5 SIMPLE SENTENCES.

The Divine Paradox Is Distinct From All Other Books In That It Is The Only Book That Logically Proves That **God Exists** By Assuming And Affirming That God Does Not Exist.
Paradox Logic.

The Divine Paradox Completes under its scope not just the Proof Of God's Existence, but includes the **LOGICAL** Proof Of God's **NATURE** (Is God Pure Being or Pure Consciousness?); **NUMBER** (Is God One or More Than One?); **GENDER** (Is God Male, Female, Both Or Neither?)

- THE EXISTENCE OF GOD:** It is useless and unintelligent for one to claim to know God, if **in fact** there is none. Thus, it is only practical to begin our dissertation with an Intelligent, Logical and Verifiable Proof of God's Existence or Non-Existence.
- THE NATURE OF GOD:** If the Nature of God is Absolute. Then all else is Relative. This means the Speed of Light in Einstein's Equation ($E=mc^2$) can no longer be Constant. The *Absolute* can only be **ONE**. And *Undefined*. But Light on the other hand is of **dual nature**, being both **granular** (particle) and **corpuscular** (wave), and confined with *space* and *time*.
The proposition of the *Varying Speed of Light* (VSL) has been suggested by Physicist Dr. João Magueijo (PhD Cambridge University) and appears in the April 2003 Edition of *DISCOVER* Magazine. His speculations are purely scientific. The Alternative suggested in **THE DIVINE PARADOX** is founded on Conclusive, Scientific, Philosophical and Theological Objectivity. The analysis is based on the postulate of **PARADOX LOGIC**:
p is (not) p. If (not) p. Then p.
- THE NUMBER OF GOD:** The failure to make the distinction between the **One** Absolute Nature of God and **Many** Relative Attributes of God has caused both Historically and Contemporaneously, Wars and Violent Battles. An Impartial, Logical Solution to this may solve such conflicts. The Divine Paradox shows on the **PURELY LOGICAL**, **EMPIRICAL**, and **MATHEMATICAL** basis of Calculus (Using the **INTEGRATION** $\int (e^x) \cdot dx$ and **DIFFERENTIATION** $[\delta(e^x)/\delta x]$ of the **EXPONENTIAL FUNCTION** $[f(x)=e^x]$, that the Unity & Plurality of Divinity are not Mutually Exclusive!!!
- THE GENDER OF GOD:** The Divine Paradox logically proves that God is both Male and Female in Reality and not just Allegorically. Implying that God's Gender is not merely *Anthropomorphic*. This now compels us to discuss matters with the Women Warriors of the Amazon Angle. We can now see with clarity and not be lost in the jungle of misconceptions.

All topics concerning God are treated **MATHEMATICALLY** in context of this new found method of Paradox Logic. This new logic stands in direct challenge against Traditional Greek Aristotelian Logic. *That* Logic says: If (p), then (p). *This* Logic of The Divine Paradox says: If (not p), then (p). The Divine Paradox stands in direct challenge against Traditional Greek Aristotelian Tautology. *That* Tautology says: (p) is (p). The Tautology of The Divine Paradox says: (p) is (not p). Paradox Logic remains **VALID** and **CONSISTENT**.

The **DIVINE PARADOX** deconstructs the Syllogism of Traditional Greek Aristotelian Thought Structure. And reconstructs it into the **FIVE SIMPLE SENTENCES**. Thus, The 'Gods' on Mount Olympus are now forced to make a Fundamental Shift in Paradigm.

The **DIVINE PARADOX** initiates a completely Scientific approach in dealing with the definition of God. In addition, its subsequent proof is a curious mélange of the method **PHILOSOPHICAL** (*a priori*) with the method **SCIENTIFIC** (*a posteriori*). Together they blend to incontrovertibly validate the Existence of God.

FINALLY. The **DIVINE PARADOX** shows its point as valid and capable of effectively addressing Global Perspectives held on **ALL** Theological topics. It surveys the spectrum of human thought regarding God's Nature, Number, and Gender: Points very relevant to our Contemporary Civilization. And it presents a purely Scientific, Philosophical, Mathematical, Deductive Analytical answer to the Atheist, Agnostic, and Skeptic. In this, its mission has been fully accomplished.

$f(x) = e^x$



$f(x) = x^2$



THE CHALLENGE
(IN POETIC JUSTICE)

Intellectuals
Fellow Citizens!!! Lend me your Ears!!!
We come to Bury Misconceptions. Not to Praise Them.
Here we stand Upon the Pedestal of this NEW FORM OF PARADOX LOGIC.
And none can with Success
Contend against the Strength of its Outrageous CLAIMS & ARGUMENTS.
Whet your Swords!
Gather Guns!
Build Your Bombs!
BUT
LINGER.....FIRST
TO
Re-Construct the **NUCLEUS** of Your Thoughts!
And Yet...All this will prove but Useless. Powerless
In facing the Argument of The Five Simple Sentences.

(Let Warriors Reign!!) Their Fears as Rain, And Shameless Pain They Squander
And hope...Those who Contend...Can then Redeem their Dignity From Disputes of Shameful Disrepute!
Against
THE DIVINE PARADOX.

The Divine Paradox was written by Mr. Mark Collingwood: Lecturer.
The non-standard authorial style was edited by Mr. Vincent Deliberto: Former Editor of The New York Times.
The Symbolic cover was professionally designed by Mr. Barry Mizenburg: (Who's Who of America / Who's Who of the World)

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PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Harvard May Revise Curriculum

Religion and United States Studies May Be in Core Curriculum

By Marcella Bombardieri
THE BOSTON GLOBE

Harvard's idea of what every student should study before donning cap and gown may be about to change dramatically.

Undergraduate education should be far more relevant to the real world than it is now, according to a curriculum task force's proposal distributed to professors Wednesday. The courses students are required to take, outside their majors, should teach them what they need to know to be responsible citizens in the 21st century, no matter what career they choose.

And what they need to know, the report says, includes two major subjects that Harvard does not require students to study now: religion and the United States.

Today, the Core Curriculum, as it is known, is more esoteric, and students could fill a literature requirement with a narrowly focused course called "Women Writers in Imperial China." If the faculty adopts the proposal, students would be more likely to take something broader, like "The Emergence of World Literature," or "Art and Censorship."

Faculty will probably discuss the report at a November meeting, and may vote on a final draft early next year, according to a task force leader.

Supporters see the proposal, the latest twist in three years of controversy over the curriculum, as part of broader efforts to make the faculty more responsive to the needs and interests of students.

"The Core was really designed to get faculty to agree to teach in it," by

allowing them to teach whatever they wanted, said Mary C. Waters, a sociologist who served on the task force.

In contrast, future course requirements should connect scholarship with "what you are going to be like, and what the world is going to be like, when you get out of college," said Louis Menand, an English professor and task force cochairman.

The report addresses what to do about general education, the required courses students take outside of their majors, roughly a year's worth of work. The Core, designed amidst the culture wars of the 1970s, requires students to take courses that expose them to different "approaches to knowledge," regardless of the subjects.

The new proposal harkens back to an earlier era at Harvard, when professors were less squeamish about imposing values. During World War II, the college designed a curriculum that sought to define what students needed to know in order to contribute to society, and which was widely influential in academia.

The report says students should be required to take one course in each of seven categories: Cultural Traditions and Cultural Change, the Ethical Life, the United States, Societies of the World, Reason and Faith, Life Sciences, and Physical Sciences. (Some existing requirements, like foreign language, would remain.)

Possible course topics, the task force suggested, could be "The Wars of Religion," "Stem Cells and Human Cloning," or "Practices of Citizenship: Ancient and Modern."

The report differs sharply from

a proposal floated last year, which would have resembled what many schools do and required students to take a certain number of classes in particular areas, such as science. But the proposal did not lay out a strong vision for what an education should be. It died partly because it was unpopular, but also because it became entangled in the controversy over the leadership of former president Lawrence H. Summers '75. The latest proposal, however, does echo some of Summers's goals for improving the curriculum.

Students interviewed Wednesday all sharply criticized the Core. Several said they found little rationale for the courses offered, many of which are widely considered easy and not to be taken seriously.

"At least [the proposal] is attempting to give us a range of what seems important, so we won't just take Alexander [the Great], Dinosaurs, Cosmic Connections, and Magic of Numbers," said junior Olivia Brown, referring to well-known Core courses.

But senior Jenny Tsai said the proposal sounds too fleeting, betraying an anxiety about the contemporary world. "It seems to be about fears about the Middle East and the need to learn science so we can create better weapons to maintain American supremacy," said Tsai, a social studies major.

Menand, however, said being up to date was the point.

"No general education should be timeless," he said. "There's no question it's a response to the world we live in now."

Former Press Secretary Dies at 61

Jones, from Page 1

dent Bill Clinton's press office and later as director of public affairs for the court-appointed receiver of the District of Columbia Housing Authority.

When he was appointed MIT News Office director, Jones said, "After several years in public service, it is an honor to join a traditional leader in service to the nation and the world—a voice of authority in science and technology."

Jones served as News Office director from 2003 until his illness.

He is survived by his wife, Karen; his mother, Ruth Stokes of Detroit; two daughters, Kofi of Wilmington and Keely of Los Angeles; a sister, Rita Dady of Oakland; a brother, Frizelle of Hudson; a stepbrother, Eric Stokes of Detroit; and a granddaughter.

A memorial service is planned at MIT for a later date.

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Solution to Bonus Crossword from page 6

Campus Dining Survey

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85%

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One of these things does not quite belong...



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The Ig Informal Lectures

Saturday, October 7, 1:00 pm
MIT 32-123, 32 Vassar St., Camb.

The MIT Press Bookstore is proud to host The 2006 Ig Informal Lectures here on the MIT campus. Please join us for a half-afternoon of improbably funny, informative, brief (10-15 minutes each), and high-spirited public lectures, featuring:

- This year’s honored Ig Nobel Prize winners explaining what they did and why they did it.
- 2003 Ig Nobel Biology Prize winner Kees Moeliker.
- 2003 Ig Nobel Interdisciplinary Research Prize winner Stefano Gherlanda.
- Guelph University adventurer/food scientist Massimo Marcone

This event is FREE, but to guarantee a seat, pick up a ticket in advance at The MIT Press Bookstore. E38-176, 292 Main St., (617) 253-5249.

The Ig Nobel Prizes honor people whose achievements have made people LAUGH, and then made them THINK. Ten prizes are given to people who have done remarkable things — some of them admirable, some perhaps otherwise.

For more information on the 2006 Ig Nobel Prize Ceremony and the Ig Informal Lectures, please visit: <http://www.improbable.com/>

All Ig Nobel Prize activities are organized by the Annals of Improbable Research.
This free event is organized in cooperation with the MIT Press Bookstore.

Usability, Theft Main Concerns for Laptops

Designers Plan to Field Test \$100 Laptops

Laptop, from Page 1

countries, but initial discussions have been held with China, India, Brazil, Argentina, Egypt, Nigeria, and Thailand.

“What I can say for sure is that we plan to do most of our testing in the field, and that Thailand is among the most probable locations for that testing,” Michail Bletsas, the OLPC chief connectivity officer, wrote in a Sept. 27 e-mail.

It is unclear whether the recent coup in Thailand will affect the country’s plans to test and to purchase the laptop.

The OLPC has been sending developer boards all over the world for the past several months, Bletsas said. The fully functional “alpha” machines will not be shipped overseas until November.

Making these laptops usable for children in areas with less developed infrastructure who might not have easy access to power or internet connectivity “has been our main concern from day one,” Bletsas said. Theft is also a strong concern for the OLPC, but the creators believe that “the machine’s unique design and kid orientation will help towards discouraging gray and black markets for it.”

“We are trying to test all aspects of the laptop: soup to nuts,” Bender said.

According to Bletsas, the relatively low cost of the laptops is the result of many factors, the three most important being OLPC’s non-profit status, “the laptop’s software that allows it to carry out typical tasks without the usual resource obesity of current personal computers,” and the novel low-cost dual display design.

The first display option is a transmissive, full-color mode, and the sec-

ond display option is a high resolution reflective mode that is sunlight-readable. This dual-mode LCD, developed by Mary Lou Jepsen, OLPC chief technical officer, has a higher resolution (200 DPI) than most laptop displays on the market. The dual display also consumes approximately one-seventh of the power of other laptop displays.

Bletsas said that the latest laptops will be powered by an AC adapter, along with a human-powered generator that works with a zip-pull cord mechanism similar to an outboard engine starter. This new mechanism replaced the crank “because of superior ergonomics.” Previous models of the laptop had also included a foot pedal, pulley system, and treadle.

The laptops are currently Linux-based and will include a 500 MHz AMD processor, 128 MB of DRAM, and 500 MB of flash memory, but no hard drive. The laptop will also include four USB ports. The laptops support wireless broadband that allows them to create an ad hoc, local area network where each laptop will be able to talk to its nearest neighbors.

The official name for the laptop is still a work in progress, but according to Bender, “2B1 is the name of a foundation Nicholas [Negroponte] started in the mid-1990’s. The goal ‘To Be One’ is shared by the OLPC and seems to be a likely name for the laptop.”

Negroponte was a co-founder and chairman emeritus of the MIT Media Lab, and served as its director until 2000. Bender was a founding member of the MIT Media Lab and served as its Executive Director from Sept. 2000 to Jan. 2006. Both Negroponte and Bender are currently on leave from MIT to work full-time on the OLPC.

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Guest Speaker Commencement Exercises 2007

The Commencement Committee invites suggestions for the guest speaker at MIT's Commencement Exercises on Friday, June 8 from all members of the community. The Commencement speaker should be one who will be able to address topics of relevance to MIT.

Suggestions may be submitted to:

Susan Shin,
President of the Class of 2007
sjs23@mit.edu

Eric Weese,
President of the Graduate Student Council
weese@mit.edu

Gayle Gallagher,
Executive Officer for Commencement
gayle@mit.edu

Professor Eric Grimson,
Chairman of the Commencement Committee
welg@csail.mit.edu

Suggestions must be received by **Friday, October 13.**

Following a review, the Committee will submit a list to the President of the Institute for consideration. The President has the responsibility and authority for selecting and inviting a guest speaker for the Commencement Exercises.

Latex Gloves, Paper Airplanes Abound at Ig Nobel Presentation

Ig Nobel, from Page 1

tex gloves and lubrication after the ceremony.

The prize in mathematics was awarded to Nic Svenson and Piers Barnes of Australia for calculating the number of photographs necessary to almost ensure that no one in a group photo will have their eyes closed. The formula instructs photographers to divide the number of people in the picture by two if the lighting is poor and by three if it is good.

In addition to the awards, other highlights of the ceremony were the 24/7 Lectures, which included MIT Professor Missy L. Cummings and Nobel Laureate Frank Wilczek, also from MIT. Cummings' seven-word or less speech, following her 24-second technical lecture, was on the topic of automobile safety: "Don't talk. Don't e-mail. Just drive."

Wilczek, who won the Physics Nobel in 2004, had to lecture on the topic of dark matter. His explanation? "What you see isn't what you get."

The night, with the theme of inertia, got off to an interesting start even before the actual event began. While waiting for the pre-ceremony, a few costumed men milled about the lobby, including one completely covered in silver paint wearing nothing but briefs, and another

with a gigantic cardboard model of a human cell taped to his head.

Similar instances of randomness occurred throughout the two-hour event.

The tradition of throwing paper airplanes onto the stage continued this year; in fact, it was also done en masse, as buckets of the airplanes were dumped from the ceiling of the hall whenever a prize was awarded.

A minute past 7:30 p.m., the pre-ceremony show commenced with a group of performers, including a king and queen, rhythmically walking to the tempo of Liszt's *Hungarian Rhapsody*, in an act entitled "Franz Liszt vs. Inertia." Paper airplanes were freely thrown, even though a projector screen before the audience kindly requested them to cease and desist from unleashing paper projectiles, a ploy of reverse psychology, no doubt.

The Ig Informal Lectures, a free event where the winners will be able to explain the reasoning behind their research, will be held tomorrow in the Stata Center at 1 p.m. Tickets are available at the MIT Press Bookstore.

More information about the Ig Nobels and the *Annals of Improbable Research*, the international science humor magazine that sponsors the awards, can be viewed at <http://www.improbable.com/>.



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| October 3 | 1948-1966: Independence and the Founding of the State
Professor Tamar Frankel
Boston University School of Law |
| October 10 | 1968-1981: War...and Peace with Egypt
Randall S. Geller
Ph.D. candidate
Middle Eastern Studies
Brandeis University |
| October 17 | 1982-1999: Lebanon, Intifadah, and Oslo
Dr. Lawrence D. Lowenthal
Executive Director
Greater Boston Chapter
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| October 24 | 2000-2006: Intifadah II and Lebanon II
Professor David Bernat
Wellesley College |

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MIT Gets First Look At Championship Course

Cross Country, from Page 16

against MIT again at the NEWMAC championships on Oct. 28 on this same course.

This meet was a good warm-up for the MIT runners, as it allowed them to get familiar with some of its trouble spots, including that slippery downhill, which ends at the edge of a lake. "It's important to let athletes visualize their race strategy for the NEWMAC's course," said women's team captain Alisha R. Schor '07.

The women's team owes much of Saturday's success to Jessica A. Thompson '07 and Erika M. Erickson '08, both of whom had been sidelined with injuries for over a month. "I was ecstatic to be able to run with my team again," said Thompson.

Erickson came in 12th overall and

second among women with a time of 20:24 on the five-kilometer course. Thompson also scored for the team, coming in 16th overall and fourth for MIT with a time of 20:59.

The rest of the women running for MIT also had strong races. Adrienne M. Bolger '09 came in third place overall and first for MIT with a time of 19:57. After Erickson, Elizabeth L. Labuz '09 finished in 17th place (20:57). Rounding out the top seven for the Engineers were Gwendolyn B. Johnson '08 in 22nd place (21:12), Rebecca L. Idell '07 in 24th place 21:22, and Brianna L. Petrone '10 in 27th place (21:27).

Both teams' next race will be the NEICAAA All New England Championships tomorrow, at their home course at Franklin Park in Boston.

Dismal Wheaton Squad Swept by 20-2 Engineers

Volleyball, from Page 16

Melnikow '10 led all servers with three aces apiece.

Katie Dooley posted a team-high nine kills for Wheaton (2-15, 1-4 NEWMAC) while Tonia Smith finished with eight kills and two blocks. Allison Reichentahl paced the Lyons with 14 digs as Sarah Oster contrib-

uted 12 of her own. Alexis Liesman and Lauren Smith shared setting duties, distributing eight and seven assists, respectively.

MIT will resume action on Tuesday, Oct. 10 against NEWMAC foe U.S. Coast Guard Academy while Wheaton will travel to Bates College this weekend to compete in the Mid-coast Classic.



GHEORGHE CHISTOL—THE TECH

Ellen E. Sojka '08 leaps to spike the ball in the Engineers' 3-0 victory over Wheaton College on Tuesday, Oct. 3.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS		
Saturday, Oct. 7, 2006		
Sailing, Sir Ian MacFarlane Trophy	Charles River; 9:00 a.m.	
Women's Soccer vs. Coast Guard	Steinbrenner Stadium; 1:00 p.m.	
Sunday, Oct. 8, 2006		
Sailing, Sir Ian MacFarlane Trophy	Charles River; 9:00 a.m.	
Monday, Oct. 9, 2006		
Men's Soccer vs. Wentworth	Steinbrenner Stadium; 3:30 p.m.	
Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2006		
Women's Soccer vs. Springfield	Steinbrenner Stadium; 3:30 p.m.	
Women's Volleyball vs. Coast Guard	Rockwell Cage; 7:00 p.m.	
Thursday, Oct. 12, 2006		
Men's Water Polo vs. Brown University	Zesiger Center; 8:00 p.m.	

Dodgers Will Win Great NLCS Then Lose to Yankee Machine

Lanphere, from Page 16

heroics and late career resurgence will not be enough to make up for Oakland's questionable rotation and average-at-best defense.

I like the Twins bullpen, which is much better anchored by closer Joe Nathan (7-0, 1.58 ERA, and 36 saves), especially since the A's bullpen has so much trouble against lefty hitters, which the Twins have in spades (AL MVP Contender Justin Morneau and AL Batting Champ Joe Mauer).

New York Yankees vs. Detroit Tigers

My pick: Yankees in four. I am a big fan of Jim Leyland and what he has been able to do in Detroit this season taking a 91 loss team to nearly winning an extremely competitive AL Central. However, I think the magic of this season has run its course, and their 12-16 record to close out the season certainly confirms this.

Detroit's youth, inexperience, and willingness to swing at anything pitched past the infield grass will be their undoing. The Yankees will sleep through their first series with only A-Rod errors and Jeter web gems indicating that, yes, they do indeed breathe.

NLDS St. Louis Cardinals vs. San Diego Padres

My pick: Padres in four. I was originally going to call this series a sweep in favor of the Padres given the Cardinals' nearly fatal late season collapse, but that prediction went out of the park nearly as fast as Albert Pujols' fourth inning home run on Tuesday night. Chris Carpenter looked sharp in Game One, but Jake Peavy will bounce back in Game Four, as will his Padres in this series. Pujols, as great as he is, can't

hit in all nine positions of the batting order at once.

New York Mets vs. Los Angeles Dodgers

My pick: Dodgers in five. This series was by far the toughest for me to make a prediction on. The Mets shared the best regular season record in baseball with their brethren from the Bronx, the Yankees, at 97-65.

Despite this, the recent loss of Pedro Martinez and Orlando "Nobody has a clue how old I really am" Hernandez will hurt the Metropolitans more than any other team's injuries in the playoffs. Pedro was their ace, an almost guaranteed winner of two games in a playoff series and now the Mets will be forced to look for answers elsewhere. These answers will have to come from veteran pitchers Tom Glavin, Steve Trachsel, and rookie John Maine. I can't see this ragged group holding up to the Dodgers rotation of Hong-Chih Kuo, Derek Lowe, and Greg Maddux.

ALCS Yankees vs. Twins

My pick: Yankees in six. While my heart says Twins, my head can't get past the Yankees and their 200 million dollar line-up of hitters who have no problem with watching pitches cross the plate. The Yankees joyless plate discipline will more than make up for their anything-but-perfect pitching (While I would love nothing more than to see Bobby Abreu celebrate after a walk, his homerun trot isn't getting a lot of play these days).

Johan Santana will win two, but the Yankee line-up will produce about a thousand runs in the other four games.

NLCS Dodgers vs. Padres

My Pick: Dodgers in seven. The NL West rivals from sunny SoCal will be paired against one another

in the NLCS. Having two teams so familiar with each other should make it an exciting series to watch. The Dodgers have the better playoff rotation and offense, and the Padres boast a superior bullpen anchored by the all-time saves leader Trevor Hoffman, but they may not have much left after their heavy regular season workload.

I expect this series to go back and forth, lasting seven games and entertaining all those baseball fans who think watching a pitcher bat should still be a part of baseball.

World Series Yankees vs. Dodgers

My pick: Yankees in six. This is a sickening prediction, but I just can't see October playing out any other way. It is not that I hate the Yankees, but I certainly can't root for the most boring club in baseball. The Yankee World Series teams of the 90's were at least interesting, even though they boasted plenty of passionate home grown talent in Mattingly, Jeter, Williams, and Rivera.

Honestly, has anyone told the Yankee players that they are getting paid millions of dollars to play a game? I think that I had more fun attending 8.01 lectures than the Yankee players do playing baseball. The last time I saw that many people on a baseball field not enjoying themselves was when the Tigers lost 119 games in 2003 and even then I'm not quite sure. I'd almost feel sorry for Yankee fans, but they seem as indifferent (other than booing) as the players themselves.

The Dodgers aren't even worth mentioning here. The Yankees will ruin a potentially great October by putting baseball fans worldwide to sleep after six painfully anti-climactic games. Here's to hoping I am completely wrong.

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\$3,000.00

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08/12/06	224510K9072V61200	LIMO SERVICE	ROUNDTrip NJ to NYC	\$157.00	
08/18/06	32H34521L938756P1	PHAT FASH	STRIPED POLO	\$46.00	
08/25/06	00938Y863011N9806	BABY BO	PINK BABY BIB	\$27.50	
08/30/06	67701P11467J90228	BARBER SHOP	FRESH CUT BALDY	\$15.00	
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SPORTS

Engineers Can't Stop Run in Blowout Loss

333 Rushing Yards for UMass Dartmouth

By Ryan Lanphere
STAFF WRITER

Last Saturday, very little went the way the football Engineers (1-3, 0-3) had designed it, when the Corsairs of UMass Dartmouth (2-2, 1-1) plundered and pillaged a 41-10 win, MIT's second consecutive divisional loss and its third of the 2006 season.

UMass Dartmouth put up a staggering 512 yards of offense compared to the Engineers' measly 187, a number which aptly described MIT's lifeless showing. The seafaring Corsairs had little trouble on the ground, rushing for 333 yards led by running backs Bob Sullivan and J.T. Harold who both topped the century mark by gaining 123 yards on 18 carries and 107 yards on 16 carries respectively.

UMass Dartmouth's air attack was equally effective, led by tight end Charles Gryska who pulled down seven receptions for 99 yards and two scores.

The game was essentially beyond MIT's grasp only 2:21 into the first quarter. After a three and out on the Engineers' first position of the game, Dartmouth returner Bryan Howard brought back freshman punter Corey Garvy's kick 50 yards to the MIT 22-yard line. On the very next play Corsair quarterback Alex Garro connected with Gryska for a 22-yard touchdown pass. The rest of the game played out much in the same manner as the Corsairs didn't punt once until late in the fourth quarter.

The Engineers' only stops before that came on a blocked 32-yard field goal attempt with 3:25 to go in the first half which was picked up by Ryan L. Brunswick '09 and returned for about 20 yards. The other stop came minutes later when Corey Garvey '10 intercepted a poorly thrown Garro pass and returned it for 23 yards of his own. Earlier in the half, Garvey connected for his first career field goal, a 35-yarder.

One of Tech's few bright spots came early in the second quarter on a 68-yard offensive scoring drive over seven plays lasting 3:06. The drive was capped by a seven-yard touchdown run by running back Robert C. Utz '09 on an isolation play to the

right side to make the score 21-10.

The drive was kept alive by a 36-yard-long Kevin T. Vogelsang '09 reception from quarterback Richard A. Mancuso '09 on fourth and one from MIT's own 41-yard line.

Mancuso finished with 153 yards on 12 completions in 25 attempts while throwing one interception. Utz, who returned to the Engineers' lineup after missing the first three games with an ankle injury, led the Engineers on the ground with a promising 32 yards on four carries but didn't get many opportunities because MIT was playing catch-up all day.

MIT's defense was led by safeties David O. Kalk '08 and Joseph T. Goldschmid '08 who had to make far too many plays after receiving little help from the MIT defensive front. Goldschmid contributed 11 solo tackles while Kalk finished with 12 solo tackles and was honored by his second NEFC weekly honor roll selection, the first coming two weeks ago after MIT's victory over Framingham State.

The biggest hits of the day came from MIT receivers Vogelsang and Christopher W. Ruggiero '07 (who led MIT in receiving with 33 yards on four receptions). Late in the third quarter, after a leaping 17-yard reception by Ruggiero, Vogelsang had a sickening de-cleating comeback block on a Corsair defender, eliciting pangs of empathy from MIT safety Kevin J. Foley '09, who missed this week's game due to a concussion after being the victim of a similar hit last week.

Not to be outdone by his teammate, with less than four minutes to play in the game Ruggiero made a bone-crushing tackle of his own, avenging an interception thrown by MIT's backup quarterback Stephen C. Toth '09.

The Engineers hope to bounce back next Saturday when they face the conference powerhouse and three times running NEFC champions, the Curry College Colonels (5-0, 2-0). The Engineers will travel to Milton, MA to play their lone night game under the lights of Walter M. Katz Field; kickoff is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.



GHEORGHE CHISTOL—THE TECH

Matthew A. Cornachione '09 battles for the ball during this past Wednesday's game against Brandeis University. The Engineers got off to a strong start with a 3-0 lead at halftime, but they were unable to score in the second half and fell 4-3 to the Judges.

Men's XC Wins Mt. Holyoke Invite
Top 10 Male Finishers All Engineers; Women Tie for 2nd behind Wellesley

By Adrienne Bolger
and Yermie Cohen

TEAM MEMBERS

On Saturday, Sept. 30 the MIT men and women's cross country teams traveled to the Mt. Holyoke Invitational in South Hadley, Mass. Despite not having many of their top runners compete, the men came into the meet confident and delivered a win. Not only did the Engineers score a perfect 15 points, ten of their runners finished before anyone from the other three teams.

Kevin F. Brulois '07 led from the start and won in a time of 26:43. Following Brulois to round out the top five were Jeremiah "Yermie" R. Cohen '09 (27:19), Archimedes C. Stuk '10 (27:31), Christopher Wong '08 (27:39), and Alexander C. Spicer '10 (27:52).

Despite the relatively easy win, some runners had trouble negotiating the course. With its narrow paths and sharp corners, it proved to be deceptively difficult. One particularly precarious downhill spelled trouble for

two MIT runners, Wong and Ryan N. King '09. Despite taking nasty spills, both managed to get up and finish the race in good position.

The women's team had another strong showing and finished second in the meet, behind Wellesley University, tied with Mount Holyoke, and defeating four other teams, including Clark and Babson College. All four of these schools will have men's and women's teams competing

Cross Country, Page 15

Boring Yankees Will Win World Series

By Ryan Lanphere
STAFF WRITER

Despite my Angels missing the playoffs, as a baseball fan I am looking forward to this October. There is no team that really stands out, and every team has significant questions. Will Billy Beane's A's ever make

it to a seven-game series in October? Will the Twins be able to win a game not pitched by Johan Santana? Will this be the year that \$200 million actually buys a ring, especially with almost \$16 million of that spent on a 43-year old with bulging discs in October? Will the Mets' big-ticket additions over the last few years finally pay off? Do the Cardinals still have a pulse?

We'll find out soon enough, but here is my take.

ALDS Minnesota Twins vs. Oakland A's

My pick: Twins in five. Despite the improbable game one victory over Johan Santana and the Twins, I am going to stick with the Gemini from Minnesota. Frank Thomas'

Lanphere, Page 15

WPI Beats MIT Field Hockey 5-1 with 4 First Half Goals

By Mindy Brauer

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SPORTS INFORMATION

A hat trick by Heather Hassett helped propel WPI to a 5-1 win over MIT in a New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) field hockey game on Tuesday. The victory was WPI's

first in conference play, improving its record to 1-2 in the league and 9-3 overall. MIT, which lost its third game in a row, fell to 1-2 in the conference and 4-7 for the year.

The early stages of the game were a midfield battle as neither team posted a shot until Hassett converted

ed a feed from Maggie Elbag off a penalty corner in the eighth minute. WPI continued to control the ball as it doubled its advantage seven minutes later on Katie Nehmer's unassisted tally.

Nicole Maglione set up Lindsay Mullins for her first goal of the

season to give WPI a 3-0 lead with 14:11 left in the half. Hassett connected on Kelly Johnson's pass to score the final goal of the period.

MIT returned to the field with new life following the intermission and fired five shots and four penalty corners during a two-minute span after posting just one penalty corner in the first half. The home team found success on its last penalty corner attempt as Amanda P. Hunter '07 gathered the rebound of a Lauren L. McCarthy '08 shot and directed the ball to Hee Jay Kang '07 for the score, 4:47 into the second half.

WPI recorded the last goal of the game three minutes later. Nicole Maglione broke up an MIT pass and sprinted toward the circle where she sent the ball to Johnson who found Hassett for the goal. MIT continued to attack as it outshot WPI 8-4 down the stretch but could not find the back of the net.

Goalie Alexa C. Herman '08 made two stops for MIT while Katherine M. Boothe '09 picked up a defensive save. Mary Kate Toomey and Betsy Ray split the game for WPI, with Toomey earning the win and Ray recording ten saves.

Both squads will return to action tomorrow, Oct. 7, for more NEWMAC play. MIT will travel to Springfield College for a 1:00 p.m. start while WPI will host Clark University at 5:30 p.m.

Volleyball Dominates Wheaton 3-0

By Mindy Brauer

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SPORTS INFORMATION

The MIT women's volleyball team improved to 5-0 in conference play with a 30-16, 30-17, 30-10, victory over Wheaton College in a New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) match on Tuesday night.

The Engineers' overall record is now 20-2, marking the 26th time the program has surpassed a 20-win total in its 32 seasons of existence. In addition, Tech has reached this milestone every season during head coach Paul Dill's 11-year tenure.

Amanda J. Morris '08 recorded a solid all-around performance for MIT as she totaled 27 assists, 14 digs, three blocks, and two aces. Frances M. Rogoz '07 hit a match-high ten kills while Briana J. Stephenson '07 added nine.

Ellen E. Sojka '08 spiked seven kills on 11 errorless attempts for a .636 hitting percentage. Stephenson paced MIT's blocking corps with four and Alexandra N. Huston-Carico '08 contributed three total blocks.

Carrie C. Buchanan '08 collected 15 digs while Alexandra T. May '10 notched nine. May and Catherine

Volleyball, Page 15



AARON SAMPSON

Annamaria E. Ayuso '07 approaches an opponent during the Engineers' 5-1 loss against Worcester Polytechnic Institute on Tuesday, Oct. 3.